

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----018050 212032Z /62

P R 212023Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5174
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23113

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UK, PK, SA
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING AT FCO

1. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF AND
DEPTOFF, MET WITH FCO UNDER SECRETARY SIR MICHAEL
PALLISER JULY 20. WIER, MURRAY, AND CORTAZZI WERE
AMONG THOSE PRESENT ON UK SIDE.

2. MR. NEWSOM REVIEWED HIS TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA AT CON-
SIDERABLE LENGTH, PARTICULARLY HIS IMPRES-
SIONS OF THE NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN AND CURRENT SE-
CURITY AND DOMESTIC CONCERNS OF PAKISTAN.

3. PALLISER OFFERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN RE-
SPONSE TO MR. NEWSOM'S PRESENTATION:

(A) HMG AGREES IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE WHAT THE
EVENTUAL BALANCE BETWEEN NATIONALISM AND COMMUNISM WILL
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BE IN AFGHANISTAN. FONSEC OWEN BELIEVES THE MAJOR
FACTOR IN JUDGING THE EVENTUAL ORIENTATION OF THE GOA
WILL BE WHETHER KABUL FOLLOWS GENUINELY NON-ALIGNED
POLICIES OR WHETHER IT PURSUES CUBAN STYLE NON-ALIGN-
MENT.

(B) BRITISH ARE WATCHING DEVELOPMENT OF EAST

GERMAN ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN TO SEE WHETHER EAST GERMANS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRADITIONAL INFLUENTIAL POSITION WHICH GERMANS HAVE HAD IN AFGHANISTAN. HMG THINKS MOSCOW COULD USE EAST GERMANS AS THEIR SURROGATE IN ADVISORY AND OTHER CAPACITIES.

(C) HMG APPROACH TO AFGHANISTAN IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF US. HMG WANTS TO CONTINUE ONGOING AID PROJECTS BUT WILL NOT INITIATE NEW ONES FOR THE PRESENT.

(D) FCO TENDS TO THINK THAT BEST SOLUTION FOR BHUTTO PROBLEM IS EXILE. PALLISER NOTED ACTIVE PRO-BHUTTO LOBBY IN LONDON.

(E) HMG FULLY SUPPORTS AMERICAN AND FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD REPROCESSING PLANT IN PAKISTAN. BRITISH VIEW PAK SITUATION AS SERIOUS AND WOULD BE WILLING TO JOIN OTHERS IN MEETING SOME OF GOP'S SECURITY NEEDS. (NEWSOM ADDED THAT US WANTS TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH UK AS WE PROCEED WITH PAKISTAN AND WELCOMES ANY ROLE BRITISH CAN PLAY.)

(F) PALLISER DESCRIBED GOP ATTITUDE BETWEEN WEST AND NON-ALIGNED AS PARADOXICAL. A YEAR AGO GENERAL ZIA PUT OUT FEELERS ABOUT RETURNING TO THE COMMONWEALTH, AND NOW PAKISTAN IS THREATENING TO LEAVE
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CENTO AND JOIN THE NON-ALIGNED. PALLISER SAID UK WOULD NOT STAND IN WAY OF GOP REASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH BUT THAT ANY DECISION IS UP TO ALL COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. AT SAME TIME, SINCE DECISION TO LEAVE COMMONWEALTH WAS BHUTTO'S PERSONAL CHOICE, HMG WOULD HOPE TO SEE SOME EVIDENCE THAT DESIRE TO RETURN IS NOT MERELY TRANSITORY.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF YEMENS, NEWSOM REFERRED TO ACCENTUATED SAUDI CONCERN OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS SOVIET ENCROACHMENT. HE SAID US WILL MEET JULY 29 WITH SAG TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO YAR. WHILE WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO DOING SO, THERE ARE SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO US AT WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY:

(A) POSSIBLE REACTION BY PDRY TO US/SAG ACTIONS
RE YAR AND COMPATIBILITY OF A US SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23113

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WITH YAR WHEN THERE IS LARGE SOVIET ADVISORY TEAM IN
SANA.

(B) DEGREE TO WHICH WE CAN DEAL WITH YAR DIRECTLY
AND NOT BE LIMITED BY SAUDI DESIRE THAT WE USE SAG AS
EXCLUSIVE INTERMEDIARY WITH SANA ON ARMS SUPPLY
MATTERS.

(C) WHO WILL OPERATE ANY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED AND
TRAIN THE YEMENIS? SHOULD SAUDIS, PAKISTANIANS,
JORDANIANS, US CONTRACTORS OR US MILITARY PERSONNEL BE
USED?

5. WIER DESCRIBED PDRY COUP AS FORTUITOUS EVENT FOR
MOSCOW' HMG NOW VIEWS PDRY AS PRACTICALLY A SOVIET
SATELLITE WHICH WILL RESPOND CLOSELY TO SOVIET DIREC-
TION. NEW REGIME IS MEETING LITTLE RESISTANCE AND HAS
LARGELY CONSOLIDATED ITS POSITION. SAUDIS WAITED
TOO LONG AND SHOULD HAVE ACTED EARLIER AGAINST SOVIET
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INFLUENCE IN ADEN. WEIR ADDED THAT HE DOUBTS THERE
STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN THE TWO YEMENS.
UK FAVORS TRANSFER OF ARMS TO YAR AND HAS INTEREST IN
SELLING BRITISH EQUIPMENT THERE. WEIR NOTED UK HAS
LITTLE INFLUENCE IN ADEN; UK MISSION IS ONLY A
LISTENING POST. NEWSOM SAID WE WOULD KEEP HMG INFORMED
OF OUR ACTIONS RE YAR AS THEY PROCEED.
HARTMAN

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